IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of \$ Art Group: 3676

Hall, David R., et al \$ Examiner: Bates, Zakiya W.

Serial No.: 10/711,454

Filed: Sept. 20, 2004

For:Apparatus in a Drill String \$

January 25, 2007

Honorable Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is timely submitted in response to the Patent and Trademark Office Action mailed December 21, 2006 for which the shortened – statutory period for response is set to expire on March 21, 2007. Reconsideration of the application in view of the following amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.